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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of improving the operation of a test strip, said test stript having micro-pores, said method comprising the steps of:

flexing the test strip in order to elongate the micro-pores, the flexing results in an inner side and an outer side of the test strip, said flexing made in a manner that avoids the formation of folds on the inner side of said test strip.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising flexing the test strip so that it is positioned in multiple planes, and supporting said test strip – at least partially – on its inner side to further avoid the formation of folds.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of creating pressure points at specific places on the test strip that enhances the function of the test strip by preventing the compression associated with the flexing of test strips and further avoiding the formation of folds on the inner side of said test strip.

4. (Currently Amended) An improved chemically-impregnated test strip, said test strip having micro-pores, the improvement comprising:

elongating the micro-pores by physically bending the test strip, thereby improving the capillary flow of any liquid that contacts the test strip, said elongating is made in the direction of the intended liquid flow and is made without promoting the formation of folds on the strip.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The improved test strip of claim 4 wherein the end of the test strip intended to be dipped into the liquid is tapered.